

In the large Council Chamber of the City Hall were assembled the PRESIDENT of the United States, the Members of the CABINET, Officers of

"We thank thee, heavenly Father, for this day—for the mercies which it commemorates, and the mercies which it brings. We bless thee that thou didst prosper the purposes and answer the prayer of our fathers, who, on this day, declared themselves and their country free. We thank thee for our broad land, our just Constitution, our good laws, our regulated freedom, our Union, our peace, and our prosperity. We thank thee that thou hast permitted on this auspicious day to lay the corner-stone of an extended Capitol to meet the wants of our enlarged land. Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us, oh Lord our God! Grant that as we lengthen our cords we may strengthen our stakes. Let our liberty ever be guided by law, our knowledge by religion, our power by justice, by mercy, and by peace. May we love our freedom as a cloak of maliciousness or as a cloak of licentiousness, but remember always that where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. That the spirit of the Lord be in the Confederacy in perpetual union. Let not the spirit of pride, or of false zeal, or of wicked mischief, unbind or break the bonds which make them one. Let the corner-stone of this

and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes; and would enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to its charge.

The ear of His Majesty was opened to that prayer: it was answered in His Majesty's Washington day to the present President of the United States, "I am glad to see with so much dignity and honor fill the proud station that Washington filled, it has been answered, and every instrument employed in the administration of this Government has executed with success the functions allotted to its charge."

After this supplication to the Most High, Washington expressed his conviction "that the foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality; and a more extensive knowledge of the true principles of religion, will be the measure of the free government extended to all the tribes that inhabit the continent; and that the same principles will be the basis of the relations of its citizens, and command the respect of the world."

"I dwell, and be," on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love of my country can inspire, since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that

thus intervene the first act in this drama—all act, in
 real importance, infinitely exceeding that for which the great
 English poet invoked
 "A muse of fire,
 A kingdom for a stage, princes to act,
 And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!"

The Muse inspiring our Fathers was the Genius of Liberty,
 all on fire with a sense of oppression, and a resolution to
 throw it off; the whole world was the stage, and higher charac-
 ters than princes trod it, and, instead of monarchs, coun-
 tries, and nations, and the age beheld the swelling scene.
 How well the characters were cast, and how well each acted
 his part, and what emotions the whole performance excited,
 let history, now and hereafter, tell.

At a subsequent period, but before the declaration of inde-
 pendence, the Bishop of St. Asaph published a Discourse, in
 which the following remarkable passages are found :

premier, and altogether the most powerful of the most enlightened States of antiquity—while with us its principles have become interwoven into the minds of individual men, connected with our daily opinions, and our daily habits, until it is, if I may say, an element of social as well as of political life; and the consequence is, that to whatever region an American citizen carries himself, he takes with him, fully developed in his own understanding and experience, our American principles and opinions, and so, wherever he goes, in co-operation with others, he supplies them to the formation of a new Government. Of this, the most wonderful instance may be seen in the history of the State of California.

On a former occasion I have ventured to remark that, "it is very difficult to establish a free conservative Government for the equal advancement of all the interests of society."

What has Germany done? learned Germany, fuller of ancient lore than all the world beside? What has Italy done? What have they done who dwell on the spot where Cicero lived? They have not the power of self-government which

captured, and this deposit brought to the eyes of men, be it
 then known that on this day the Union of the United States
 of America stands firm, that the Republic which still exists
 is unimpaired, and with all its original usefulness and glory;
 growing every day stronger and stronger in the affections
 of the great body of the American people, and attracting more
 and more the admiration of the world. And all here as-
 sembled, whether belonging to public life or to private life,
 with hearts devoted thankful to Almighty God for the
 preservation of the liberty and happiness of the country,
 unite in sincere and fervent prayers that this deposit, and
 the walls and arches, the domes and towers, the columns
 and entablatures now to be erected over it may endure
 forever.
 "GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."
 "DANIEL WEBSTER,"
 "Secretary of State of the United States."

Fellow-citizens: Fifty-eight years ago Washington stood
 on this spot to execute a duty like that which has now